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Scranton is as alarmed as I am over the number of voters Wallace is likely to attract. Today retired General Curtis LeMay was announced as having agreed to be his running mate. Although LeMay was useful during the war, and had a splendid record as an Air Officer,

October 5, 1968 - Saturday

Took E to the airport, where she boarded a Pan-American plane for Boston, there to see Sasha and David.

This afternoon I went down by train to Oxford with Diana Cooper. Aline Berlin met us at the station, and with Ali Forbes and Aline's son we attended Shaw's "Arms and the Man" at the Oxford Playhouse. Georgina Ward (Forbes) had the leading part, and played it, I thought, brilliantly. Diana, whose judgment I greatly value in these matters, was enthusiastic about her performance.

Afterwards we all went to the Berlin's house, where we feasted on the best after-theatre supper I can remember. Isiah came in about midnight from a University dinner he had attended. He is considered almost incomparable as a conversationalist, but on this occasion Ali was a fair match for him. They centered on music, and at least agreed on one important point, namely that Stravinsky is the greatest living figure in the musical world. Finally, Diana, the Berlins and myself went to bed at 2:30 a.m.

I found "Arms and the Man" almost as f[illegible] as it must have been when it opened in 1894. In 1909 it formed the basis for a popular operetta by Oscar Strauss, "The Chocolate Soldier", one of the delights of my youth. For some reason, G. B. Shaw did not approve of the operetta, and unlike his usual regard for money, refused to accept any of the royalties. Later he disowned the film version of his play. I did not realize until it was told me tonight that it was on the occasion of the opening of "Arms and the Man" in 1894 Shaw made his often quoted remark as he took a curtain call, and there was a solitary boo from the balcony: "My dear fellow, I quite agree with you; but what are we two against so many?"

vote for Wallace, who is, I am informed, more likely to divert ballots from Humphrey than from Nixon.

We had arranged a lunch today at home for the Eugene Blacks, Bobby Cutler and Anthony Favelo, and the Joe Frances from Baltimore. Gene was stricken in Paris with Hong Kong flu, and has flown home. The same applies to Bobby Cutler, except that his malady is a peptic ulcer. He came here last night, said he had not had a drink of anything alcoholic for a month because of his internal condition, but reported this morning he felt temporarily cured, possibly as a result of having downed eight glasses of champagne at our party. Joe and Julia France did, however, appear. His father was a famous lawyer and Judge in Baltimore, and until he retired this France was a partner in the great firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard, [redacted] a formidable rival of the firm of Sennes, Bowen and Sennes, where I practiced law. They had been in Scotland for some time, attending field trials. Their specialty is German short-haired pointers, which Joe considers the best of all bird dogs. I have shot over them in Germany, and have a high opinion of them as all around performers. Also, they make admirable house pets, and such domestication does not seem to spoil them for shooting.

November 6, 1968 - Wednesday

The election results are in, and Nixon has been chosen by a small margin, both in the popular and Electoral College votes. This means that Buntebank Agnew will be Vice President, an [redacted] unsuitable choice. Humphrey came forward toward the end with a great rush, but the Nixon election was assured when he carried California and Illinois. Now there [redacted] will be a semi-paralysis in our Government until the inauguration on January 20, 1969.

I still have fever, and stayed at home ruminating.

The Democrats will control both Houses in the new Congress.

The weather turned much colder the beginning of this week, and the thermometer has steadily registered around 45 degrees.

November 7, 1968 - Thursday

E and I went this morning to the Memorial Service at St. Paul's for Rex Benson. This was a fine ceremony, attended by many of his friends and acquaintances of all ages, as well as by representatives of the Merchant Banks in the City, and officers of the numerous

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which stems basically from the common language, perspective and culture of two predominantly Anglo-Saxon countries. It also reflects historical circumstances which have given Britain and the United States, at least since 1814, similar interests and objectives on the world scene. The result has been a close and continuous contact, a candor and intimacy

This "special relationship" is one the British wish to preserve, even while denying or down-playing its existence.

NATO

The British Government regards NATO as fundamental to the security of the UK, and continues to give NATO strong and active support within the limitations of its economic resources. In the last year or so the British interest in NATO has intensified in connection with the British strategy to enter Europe. The withdrawal of British forces from East of Suez is seen by many Government leaders as an opportunity to reinforce British commitments to NATO. The NATO concept enjoys general approval of the political parties and the country as a whole. Although there is a vocal anti-NATO, neutralist group within the left wing of the Labor Party, it has had little influence on the policies of the Labor Government.

The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia provoked a strong condemnatory reaction from the British Government, and occasioned reaffirmation of the vital importance of NATO

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Joe Fromm came to see me this afternoon. I especially enjoy talking to him, for not only is he always well informed, but his intellect and judgment are quick and supple. We talked chiefly about the international currency proceedings at Bonn, which concluded this morning. A two billion dollar credit has been made available to France. The Deutsch mark will not be revalued, but no decision is yet known about whether the French will devalue the franc. Roy Jenkins flew back this afternoon and appeared before the House of Commons. He said no question had been raised in Bonn about devaluing the pound. He announced heavy new taxes on beer, spirits and other items. They will be unpopular, since they include an additional four shillings (48 cents) on a bottle of whiskey, a penny (one cent) on a pint of beer, and an additional 5 pence on a package of 20 cigarettes, as well as on a gallon of gasoline; in addition, he said sales taxes in Britain would also be increased.

Although the actions taken in Germany will, I suppose, suffice to handle the immediate crisis, they must be followed up by long range decisions. There is more and more talk of the necessity for another Bretton Woods type of conference.

Jesse Friedman came to see me this afternoon. I had not met him since he was a brilliant young man working for me in the Department of Commerce. He has been for fifteen years running his own business at home, as an economic consultant, and judging by the list of his clients, he should have no financial fears for his own future.

The night before last Binnie and Tony Lambton were at our party. Binnie told me she was completely illiterate, had never been to school, and had written only three letters in her entire life, which others have said is literally true. Tony talked about his dislike of the appointment of John Freeman to Washington. He is writing an article on it which will shortly appear in one of the newspapers.

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Without being in any way connected with my conversation with Tony, we received today a message from Washington, asking us to forward any writings by Freeman when he was Editor of the Spectator that commented on Nixon.

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Date: Nov 27,1968
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INFO : Amembassy BONN 1903
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Subject: Anglo-German Relations in the Wake of Bonn Meeting

Ref : London 14672

1. From press and Fonoff sources, it seems increasingly evident that while German briefings may have exaggerated the extent of the problem, there was some fire behind all the smoke about the Wilson-Blankenhorn conversation. While our informants tell us that Jenkins and Stewart were moderate and measured in this talk, it does appear that Wilson used language and manner which, if accurately reflected in Blankenhorn's report, could only have infuriated the Germans, already sensitive about what they felt was undeserved pressure for revaluation. A

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Approving Officer: E/MIN:SMCleveland

Concurrence: POL - Mr. James

E/GEN - Mr. Percival

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Page 2 Date:

Fonoff informant adds that he suspects that Blankenhorn, in his turn, failed to make adequately clear to his British interlocutors the true strength of the German position on this subject or the depth of political feeling in Germany behind it.

2. Fonoff officials responsible for Britain's Common Market bid deeply concerned about this development and rightly regard it as a significant setback, especially as the proposed Wilson visit to Kiesinger in February has been playing a major role in their planning for what to do next in Britain's relationship with Europe. They recognize that what is needed above all is closer personal contacts between British and German leaderships, and are looking forward to Birrenbach's visit here in December as an opportunity to make some progress in this direction.

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cheaper imports will further cut into our domestic sales. Trippe is a remarkable man. In my opinion, his accomplishment in Pan American is the greatest single achievement by any businessman of our time. He was the first operator to envision the enormous possibilities of civil aviation, and to remain always undeterred by obstacles to its growth.

Marquis Childs came to see me. His wife, to whom he was devoted, died last summer. He takes a gloomy view of the immediate economic and financial future both of Britain and France. He had a good deal to say about the Presidential campaign, and what he considered the lack of any really enthusiastic support for Nixon. He thinks, however, the President-elect is able and capable of managing affairs well, provided he places competent people in the higher offices of Government. He said the gossip in Washington was that I might be replaced here by Wiley Buchanan.

December 7, 1968 - Saturday

The long awaited letter about how Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions resign on the occasion of changes in the White House has at last arrived. It reads:

This poses something of a question for me, in that though I do wish to leave this post during the winter, I would prefer to stay on for a short while after January 20, in order to terminate my days properly here and to pack up our belongings without being over-hurried. It is further complicated by the receipt yesterday of correspondence in these terms recently interchanged between the President-elect and the Prime Minister:

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December 12, 1968 - Thursday

Went this morning to lecture at the Imperial Defence College. The Commandant is Air Chief Marshal Sir Donald Evans. I delivered this discourse:

Then I was subjected to almost endless questioning

There were representatives of about 14 nations there, and I found the session enjoyable, although I talked with little intermission for two hours.

Arrived home late for lunch, where we [redacted] gathered:

Duchess of Buccleuch
Mr. and Mrs. John Updike
Senator Ribicoff
Princess Elizabeth of Toro
Mr. Weidenfeld
Mrs. Phipps
Mr. Spiegel

I have seldom been at a lunch where conversation was so generally participated in, with each talker addressing the whole table. Ribicoff raised the subject of the Beatles, and inquired into the reason for their great popularity. He certainly stepped into a tiger trap, for the now famous author Updike, Weidenfeld, Diana and Sam Spiegel are formidably familiar with this subject. George Weidenfeld is a mine of miscellaneous information. He speaks [redacted] well. Abe Ribicoff gave us a short sketch of each of the members of the Nixon Cabinet, as announced this morning. He knows most of them. Having once been a Cabinet member himself, he said the most important quality needed for such a position was that of loyalty. He had resigned over a matter of principle. His estimate was that the appointments were good, but not notably so. He thought the President-elect made a determined effort to choose several better men, but his offers were rejected by, amongst others, Senator Jackson, David Rockefeller, and Senator Brooke. He believes Nixon will be the undisputed master, especially as respects foreign affairs. The only criticism he made was the choice of an Alaskan as Secretary of the Interior.

Most people were surprised by the appointment of Bill Rogers as Secretary of State, because of his comparative lack of experience in foreign affairs. He was, however, an excellent Attorney General under Eisenhower, is a close friend of Nixon's as well as an intelligent and

unusually personable man, with considerable influence in the Congress. I have known him off and on for years, and esteem him highly.

We drank today the last bottles of the wine I acquired from Jock Whitney when I first came to London, an Aloxe Corton 1947. It was sound and delicious.

The usual routine this afternoon at the office.

December 13, 1968 - Friday

Cecil King came to lunch with me today at the office. It was especially interesting to hear him on the subject of British finances after the furore caused by recent newspaper reports. He says his banker friends predict that if, as The Economist advocated today, there were resort to a floating pound, sterling would fluctuate between $1.20 and $1.80 for the time being. He regards devaluation in France later on as likely, and says more and more Frenchmen favor one of 18% or more, which would have an adverse effect on other Continental currencies, and particularly on the pound. He believes no long range success will attend the operations of the present Government, but expresses an almost equal disdain for the capability of Tory politicians. Denis Healey seems to be the only member of the Cabinet in whom he has any confidence, with the possible exception of Marsh, whom he knows less well. Crusty King, as he is sometimes called, is given to dire forebodings, but in this case it is quite extraordinary to find his essential views supported by leading newspapers. He believes that if the true state of the reserves of the Bank of England were publicly known, there would be a run on sterling such as has never before been witnessed. According to him, only two Cabinet members, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister, know the real figures. He has been invited to visit Kuwait, and will leave for there in early January, with the hope of meeting Nasser and perhaps other Arab rulers on his way back. He told me he had disposed at auction of some pieces of antique silver. To his utter surprise, and I am sure gratification, a rose bowl he bought twenty or thirty years ago for £250 fetched £9,000. He said he had also disposed of two Victorian embossed candlesticks and snuffers, mediocre in appearance, purchased within the last twenty years, at an auction price of £500. His own analysis of the situation is that these tremendous figures are due to a flight out of currency, which may achieve even more momentum.

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sell his timber and when petroleum chemicals and plastics have already replaced it; finally, ponds, marshes, lakes are no longer refuges for migratory game. If the water is attractive, it is taken over for yachting or pedalo purposes; if it is disturbed and muddy, helicopters anoint it with anti-mosquito preparations and kill the little ducks. Today the whole civilized world is in conflict with nature."

December 31, 1968 - Tuesday

Lunched at L'Apéritif on Jermyn Street. It is considered one of the best restaurants in London, but I had not been there for many years. It is expensively modest and well situated near some of the famous shops in that district, including Floris for perfumes, Fortnum & Mason, Dunhill, Gucci, and one of the most comprehensive cheese emporia in the world.

We gave what was called a reception at the Residence tonight. E. had laid on a discotheque with its manipulator, and a friend of his [redacted] extended the fish-netting and paraphernalia appropriate to such a diversion. The party was originally for our three children and their friends, but among the 245 or more people who attended [redacted] was a smattering of all ages and interests. The partial list was:

Between dancing, drinking, and eating the guests appeared fully occupied and seemingly happy. We had 14 round dining tables on each of which was a magnum of champagne as well as bottles of Moselle, renewable on call. An enormous buffet, stretching the whole length of the large dining room, bent under the weight of endless platters of food, desserts, fruits, and hot dishes. Some of the guests took all too literally E.'s invitation for "from 9:30 p.m. forever".

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